



PITTSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT BERKSHIRE COUNTY SRT

April 24, 2013

TO: Chief Michael Wynn / Pittsfield Police Department
Lieutenant Michael Winston / Berkshire County SRT Team Commander
Susan Brown / Homeland Security Program Manager

FROM: Officer Matthew Kirchner / Berkshire County SRT Team Sniper / Operator

RE: Equipment Proposal- Part 2

The purpose of this proposal is to request funding for replacement ballistic tactical vests and tactical response plate carrier systems for the Berkshire County Special Response Team (Berkshire County SRT), utilizing monies to be funded through the Western Massachusetts Homeland Security Council.

In keeping with the efforts to streamline and standardize SWAT equipment throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I have tried to work closely with the other LEC's (Law Enforcement Councils). It is the goal of all of the statewide LEC's to come up with standardized equipment across the state so that we better serve our communities. Ultimately our goal is to be able to place a SWAT tactical team member from one end of the state in a group from the other end of the state and they will have standardized equipment and procedures allowing them to effectively do their job without issue. Our team has been very fortunate to have been recently provided with several pieces of equipment funded through the WMRHSAC and this new equipment has proven itself very useful.

As a result of the recent terrorist bombing incident at the Boston Marathon, and the terrorist incident that followed in Watertown, we have reviewed our the Berkshire County Special Response Teams equipment needs and feel that our aging worn ballistic vests are in dire need of replacement. The Berkshire County SRT has recently added personnel from the Berkshire County Sheriff's Department to our tactical team and we anticipate adding one additional Sheriff as a tactical operator in the coming months. We are requesting the Western Massachusetts Homeland Security Council consider for funding, new Ballistic tactical vests and ballistic rated tactical plate carrier systems with polymer plates, to be utilized by the Berkshire County SRT.

Currently our team is called upon to deploy all over the Western Massachusetts Region for a multitude of incidents. Currently our team has very limited number of ballistic vests that are current and fall within the five year replacement cycle dictated by vest

manufacturers and DOJ guidelines. Of the 30 current team members on the Berkshire County SRT, 10 vests were purchased in 2009 by the Pittsfield Police Department and are currently still within their five year duty cycle. All of the remaining vests are older than five years and need to be replaced. A large portion of the remaining vests in service are approximately 10-15 years in age and are heavily used and worn extensively. My goal is to replace several of these aged and heavily weathered vests as soon as possible. My proposal is that the eight (8) oldest vests will be replaced and will come out of "frontline service". These eight (8) vests would be retained and stored in an emergency equipment cache for future emergency use and MCI scenario training events.

During the course of my conversations with Barbara Normandin of All Sports Heroes, Robert Keens of MHQ Municipal Vehicles, and the Command Staff of the Berkshire County SRT we all agree that the purchase of eight (8) new Protech ballistic vests is necessary to operational safety and public safety. The vests specified will include special threat rifle plates (*NJJ 0101.06 compliant Level III rating*) to provide greater safety for tactical operators. The replacement of these vests will be of great benefit to the Berkshire County SRT and to the citizens protected in the Western Mass region. These eight (8) new tactical vests are greatly needed and would fill an enormous void in the current equipment we are using. We are also requesting that three (3) Protech Tac-PR outer plate carrier systems be purchased to include special threat rifle plates (*NJJ 0101.06 compliant Level III rating*). Based upon the proposal of eight (8) new tactical vest systems and three (3) Protech Tac-PR plate carrier units, we are requesting the Western Massachusetts Homeland Security Council approve the amount of \$23,825.00 to be utilized for the above mentioned equipment. All of the above mentioned equipment is currently listed on Massachusetts State Contract pricing (*Under contract # LAW14*) and provides substantial cost savings under the current contract.

I have personally reviewed the products that are being manufactured by Protech Armored Products and feel that this equipment would offer significant improvements in providing the best possible safety for public safety personnel and our communities. Therefore I ask that the Berkshire County Special Response Team should be provided with new ballistic rated tactical vests and tactical plate carriers to provide the best level of protection possible for our tactical operators.

Should you have any questions, or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,

Officer Matthew Kirchner
Pittsfield Police Department
Berkshire County SRT Sniper / Operator